

1. Is the Department of Information Resources (DIR) still requiring all staff to be trained Security Awareness and be reported on by June 14 per House Bill 3834 requirements?

Updated April 3, 2020

Yes, TEA consulted with DIR and the compliance date will remain in effect. While DIR is aware of reporting and compliance deadlines over the upcoming few months and the challenges some organizations may have in meeting those deadlines, most of these deadlines are set in statute and therefore DIR does not have the authority to delay or reschedule submission deadlines.

There are many resources available to support this requirement. Currently there are over 50 certified training programs available and most of which require no more than an hour of each employees' time to complete with little to no cost impact. Additionally, there is close to 75 days prior to the mandated completion date.

Regarding the cyber training requirements of HB3834, it is imperative – now more than ever with an increased remote work force – that all public sector employees are as prepared as possible to work securely with heightened awareness for cyber threats. Because of this, each organization should continue to make cyber training a high priority. Low and no-cost certified training programs have been available on DIR's website since October 2019 (see: <https://dir.texas.gov/View-About-DIR/Information-Security/Pages/Content.aspx?id=154#list>) and all public sector employees are strongly encouraged to complete the required training utilizing one of these certified programs. For organizations required to report compliance, DIR will provide an online form for attestation of compliance in April 2020.

Please check with [DIR](#) for the most up to date information. For additional questions, please email TXTrainingCert@dir.texas.gov

2. Our Special Education Department is using Zoom (or similar tools) to conduct ARDs. Some have raised security concerns related to these platforms, and we are concerned we should not conduct ARDs as a result. What steps should we take?

New
4/9/20

ARD meetings can be conducted virtually, and if properly configured, most popular virtual meeting platforms can do this without a significant security risk. Every LEA should make the decision on what meeting tool to use based on their level of comfort with the security within the tool. TEA is conducting a webinar on appropriate security precautions to take with several of the most popular tools during the week of 4/13.

Cybersecurity Tips and Tools – Virtual Meeting Security Considerations

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 10-11am CDT

Webinar Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7768453577073784076>

Description: As we increase our use of online lessons and meetings, we need to be especially diligent with our cybersecurity efforts to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of student and staff information. This session will review some common virtual meeting platforms, and how best to secure these meetings.

Cybersecurity coordinators, auditors and representatives interested in cybersecurity issues and resources, which can be utilized within the education communities, are encouraged to attend.

3. What steps should a district take to secure online platforms when providing distance learning?

New
4/9/20

Most popular virtual meeting platforms can do this without a significant security risk. Every LEA should make the decision on what meeting tool to use based on their level of comfort with the security within the tool. TEA is conducting a webinar on appropriate security precautions to take with several of the most popular tools during the week of 4/13.